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Santa travels down Welland Canal Page 2

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Thief nabbed
Port man helps catch robber



## **INPORTANEWS**

SERVING PORT COLBORNE . WAINFLEET . SHERKSTON . LOWBANKS . ISSUE NO. 49 VOLUME 15

For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

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■ MUSEUM: Annual Grand Old Christmas Festival held



LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photo

Jim Martin and Frank Flake volunteered in the blacksmith's building and branded wooden disks to commemorate the Grand Old Christmas Festival at the Port Colborne Museum on Sunday afternoon.

### A sleigh ride down memory lane

LINDSAY COSTELLO For inPort News

PORT COLBORNE -Travelling back in time was not a difficult feat last Sunday when the Port Colborne Marine and Historical Museum closed out the weekend with a seasonal celebration.

The museum has once again brought traditional holiday cheer to the community with its 35th annual Grand Old Christmas Festival, which took place from noon to 4 p.m. Adorned with classic decorations, the museum grounds

came to life with hundreds of visitors passing through and participating in the old-fashion customs.

"People are enjoying the traditional activities," said museum curator Stephanie Powell- Baswick, adding that the interactive aspect draws people in.

Horse-drawn carriage rides brought riders around the block, while log sawing and branding, candle dipping, bookmark printing, photos with Santa Claus and caroling were offered on the grounds.

see MUSEUM I page 2



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#### MUSEUM

### **Christmas Festival stays true to roots**

Holiday treats such as hot apple cider, roasted chestnuts and pudding and sauce, a crowd favourite that was served at Arabella's Tea Room, tempted taste buds throughout the

The archival building was also open and was dubbed the Museum Mall where visitors could shop for

books and gifts. Town Crier, Thomas Pekar, gathered the crowd together to view performances by both the McKay Public School and Port Colborne High School choirs as the afternoon

progressed. Available inside the main building was the museum's latest exhibit, Christmas in the Country. The new addition, which will remain open until Tuesday, Dec. 20, when the museum closes for the season, celebrates the ingenuity and resourcefulness of women as they created holiday experiences without the aid of modern conveniences.

With a strong volunteer support system, museum staff was able to draw visitors of all ages to the grounds for the event.

Powell-Reswick said adding new elements each year keeps the event fresh but by sticking to its roots, the festival is still able to portray the holiday seasons of decades past.

She said she felt this vear's festival was a success as it continues to represent our heritage and brings about a sense of community in Port Colborne "It's based on tradition and makes you feel good to be a part of it," she said.

> LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photo

Horse-drawn carriage rides were available for \$1 during the Port Colborne Museum'fùs 35th annual Grand Old Christmas Festival on Sunday, allowing visitors to try a traditional form of transportation as they rode around the block.



■ PILOT BOAT: Santa sails up Welland Canal

### Ahoy, Santa Claus — welcome to Port Colborne!



LINDSAY COSTELLO For InPort News

PORT COLBORNE -Santa Claus didn't need his sleigh when he made his grand entrance into the Lakeside City last Saturday afternoon.

Heading north along the Welland Canal, he arrived via the J.W. Cooper tugboat to a sea of onlookers. Organized by the Downtown Business

LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photo Santa Claus made his grand entrance in Port Colborne on Saturday afternoon as he rode down the Welland Canal on the J.W. Cooper tugboat



Port Colborne Business Improvement Area

boat arrival is unique to Port Santa, paint a tree ornament Colborne and has become at the craft table and enjoy a Christmas tradition in the community.

The McKay Public School choir entertained viewers as they anticipated the big moment, which came at about 1:30 p.m. near the Harbourmaster's House.

After Santa disembarked on West St., he and Piper Tyler Travis led the crowd toward Clarence St. and into the former Rossman's store. which was been dubbed "Santa's Workshop" for the occasion.

Visitors were invited to have their photo taken with

hot chocolate and festive goodles.

"Everything seems to be a hit," Rosemari Poisson of

the Port Colborne Business Improvement Area said adding the craft table and the piper were additions this

She said Santa's tugboat arrival compliments and fits in well with the day's event, celebrating Port Colborne's marine heritage and providing a fun environment before the night's parade put on by the City of Port Colborne, "It was awesome," she said.



### **Holiday cheer** in the air



LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photos LEFT: Santa and his reindeer closed out the lighted evening parade in Port Colborne on Saturday evening.

ABOVE: Seven-year-old Mia Toopae-Robins worked with her father in the log sawing activity offered as part of the museum's Grand Old Christmas Festival in Port Colborne on



LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photo Thoroid's PK Hummingbird Steel Band brought its musical styling to the city as they performed



Piper Tyler Travis, left and Santa Claus led the crowd down West St. towards Clarence.

### **INPORTANEWS**

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inport@wellandtribune.ca Ken Koyama, publisher, general manager Dave Johnson, Inport News senior reporter



Ourview

#### Listening to constituents?

PP Cindy Forster had a chance last week to support a private member's bill to restore local control over planning

for wind turbines and other Green Act projects. The bill, called the Local Municipality Democracy Act, was introduced by Todd Smith, MPP for Prince Edward-Hastings, and received first and second reading at Queen's Park last Thursday. However, the governing Liberals and the NDP - including Forster who represents Welland riding for the NDP - voted against it. The bill would have surely been welcomed by the 79 Ontario municipalities who have called for a restoration of municipal

planning authority for windmills and other green projects. Wainfleet can be counted among those 79 municipalities. Earlier this year, Wainfleet passed a moratorium on wind turbine installation until more information on possible health effects. property value impact and other issues is made available or more studies are carried out. West Lincoln also called for a moratorium. Two wind-turbine projects are planned for West Lincoln and Wainfleet, including a Niagara Region Wind Corp, plan to install 77 turbines in the two municipalities.

West Lincoln does not fall into Forster's riding, but Wainflee does. And you can bet many residents there, alderman and Mayor April Jeffs aren't too happy with their Queen's Park representative right now. leffs. along with West Lincoln Mayor Doug Joyner, were at Queen's Park for the reading of the bill. That shows how important it was to both of their municipalities for local control to be brought

Wainfleet council has concerns about the Green Energy Act and the way it allows for no real municipal input or control over a wind turbine project. Yes, municipalities can voice their opinion to various government ministries about the wind turbines, just as the general public can, but it has no final say or control over the turbines The placement of one set of turbines in the township could have a very negative impact on Skydive Burnaby, with the flight path for

parachutists being right over one of the proposed turbines A municipality should be able to go to the wind turbine proponent and try and work out a comprise to the placement. But if the company decides it's set in its ways, then there's nothing the business or township could do.

Surely Forster was aware of these issues when she left her regional councillor's position to run for the NDP as MPP in the recent election. How could she not be, especially sitting at the same regional council table as leffs and lovner. And when she was seeking

the job, she must have heard from residents and Mayor Jeffs about the turbines and energy act. She had the chance to score points with constituents in Wainfleet and across the riding by voting in favour of the bill. But she chose to stick to party lines and vote the way the rest of the NDP did, ignoring the people who put her in office. We're not against green energy, and neither, we believe, is

Wainfleet. We, like Wainfleet, would just like to see major decisions that affect a municipality back in the hands of local government. Decision such as where turbines go, and whether they're even wanted, should be left in local hands, not in the hands of politicians who probably can't even find Wainfleet on a map.

III I'VE REEN THINKING

### Thinking of food at Christmas time

GORD ARRAHAM Port Colborne Baptist

uring the Christmas season, one of the main attractions is food. We have it everywhere. The merchandizers of food goodies are telling us we need this and that and our appetites scream that we want this certain treat that we never have the rest of the year.

Some in our community do not have this luxury and so those who do can give a little to those who do not.

Right now we have some who are organizing and gathering money and food for the annual Santa's Helpers and Salvation Army Kettle" Campaign. Both are worthy of your contributions. Along with these seasonal providers

we also have a new food provision service that is now open at the Port Cares, Reach Out Centre 61 Nickel St. It is the result of the amalgamation of

the Inter-Church Food Bank and the Port Cares/Reach Out Centre

The Port Colborne Clergy Fellowship, who through the vision of few people in Port Colborne, began the Inter-Church Food Bank in 1986, originally intended it as emergency food supplies distributed on an as needed basis a few days a month. It became the largest and longest serving of three Food Providers in Port Colhorne

As the needs arose, there was the addition of other food suppliers in Port Colborne The Inter-church Food Bank under the direction of the Port Colborne/ Wainfleet Clergy Fellowship, Port Cares/ Reach Out Centre and the Salvation Army all received food supplies from

■readers'views

Thank you once again, Port Colborne. The community has shown again that Port Colborne is a city that cares.

Together through the Lions Club food drive we collected nearly \$3,000 in cash donations and more than 16 tonnes of food for the Port Cares Reach Out Food Centre

With the help of hundreds of volunteers and thousands of donors, we have once again provided much-needed

support for our community food bank. Once again, we provide our heartfelt thanks to the clergy and congregation of the Christian Life Assembly Church for providing us with a base of operations for the drive. The use of their building gave us a facility to store, sort and pack

local churches, businesses, individuals and even outside cornorate donors that helped them to maintain a basic inventory of food for each of the three. While each of the three Food Providers operated independently, the regular practice among the three was to keep in contact with each other, see what supplies each had and then share with one another from their surplus food or even some donations that arrive for this The Inter-church Food Bank reached a

crossroads in 2010. With the retirement of its volunteer director. Mieke Van Es (who still co-ordinates the Santa's Helpers), coupled with the rapidly growing food needs among people in our community, and the lessening supplies of food to the Food Bank along with an evaluation of the present and future needs, it was decided that some changes

The Clergy Fellowship made the decision to commission a Food Bank Planning team with the goal of developing a plan for the future of the Food Bank and food distribution in Port Colborne and area, and with the mandate

to "feed the hungry in Jesus Name" When the changeover took place in early Fall, Rachelle Anderson, of Port Cares, took on the role of Co-ordinating the new Food Bank at the Nickel St. Reach Out Centre. Many of the existing Inter-Church Food Bank Volunteers moved over to the new facility and a new team of Volunteers has been added to the team.

With the new Food Services comes on-site storage for food. A large walk-in Refrigerator and Freezer, allows for "fresh from the farm" produce to be provided

by local farmers as well as corporations who continue to send their perishable products for free distribution. Rounding out this full program for our community, the Reach Out Centre provides meals on a regular basis and is continuing to develop a food preparation, training program that will enable some to prepare for and find employment in the food service industry. To show their support for the new Food Bank and services, the Port Colborne

Lions Club enthusiastically spearheaded

their annual, city-wide food drive on

Saturday, November 5. The response to this food drive by our Lions Club and our community, to our new Food Bank, was an overwhelming sign that this community, called Port Colborne, cares for all of its individuals and families. How about some practical steps of sacrificing and giving to these worthy community services and to those in need? "I don't have the money", you say!

As an example, here is a practical plan to use what you have for someone else. The numbers may vary but the idea is the Try setting aside your beverage of choice for 1 week (10 at \$1.50 = \$15); and your snacks treats (\$10); and one meal out (\$15)! This comes to a grand total of \$40 in one week. Then take that money and give it to Santa's helpers or put it into the Salvation Army Kettle outside

the grocery store or give it to Port Cares

for their Food Provision Services (Food Bank) at the Reach Out Centre, Try it and

you will realize how much this can count if we all do it together. As Pastor Steve Davis wrote in last week's article, "you will be like Christ at Christmas. Have a Merry Christmas.

you all again next year.

Food drive roaring success

our food for the day. As always they proved to be gracious hosts and we are indebted to them for their pport We also received donations of

much needed supplies and services from many businesses. A big thank you to the following organizations for their support: Brent & Jenny's No Frills, Fontaine Transport, Sobevs, Modern Waste Corp. and Staples. Local newspapers, radio stations and businesses all provided us with invaluable advertising in the weeks leading up to the drive. Please join us in thanking these

businesses for their generosity in support of community events. We truly appreciate the support the

community has shown for this event. We couldn't do it without you. We will see

The Port Colborne Lions Club

#### Successful fundraising ride On Aug. 21, more than 650 cyclists

pedalled to the finish line at the RONA MS Bike Tour — Niagara. Participants rode 40 or 75 kilometres, starting at King's Bridge Park near the Niagara Falls. After the tour, participants relaxed by enjoying an afternoon at the waterfront More than \$400,000 has been raised so far. Thanks to Dave Johnson and Victoria Gray for the writeup on my MS BikeTour. To date I have realized \$3,170. A sincere thank you to all of my sponsors who helped make this a success. Larry Peyton Port Colborne

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### Area artists to grace gallery walls

LINDSAY COSTELLO For InPort News

eck the Walls with art and sculptures.

A collaborative effort will see the work of more than a dozen area artists gracing the walls at Arts Place Gallery this month. Although some of the pieces are holiday themed, the exhibit offers a wide range of work and was created using several mediums. "There's quite a lot of variety,"

said Joyce Honsberger, who co-founded the King St. gallery almost 20 years ago.

"Everyone has a share in it," she

Glass pieces, pottery, photography, paintings sculptures, mixed media pieces and jewellery were all on display during Saturday afternoon's artist

The year-end exhibit features the work of gallery members as well as guest artists to encompass the diverse talent the area has to

recention.

"When it comes together it's exciting," said Honsberger. She said much thought goes into the way the gallery is set up and because this month's feature was a collaborative exhibit, it was more important than in exhibits past to strike the right balance.

She said it is important for her to keep the walls looking fresh, exciting and different as the walls chance from one exhibit to the

"We're all in this together," said Honsberger of the relationship between the Arts Place members who have come together to bring Deck the Walls to the community. "We support each other and we help each other," she added. The exhibit features smaller

works as opposed to large pieces, which allows more pieces to be displayed throughout the gallery. Honsberger said she enjoys the collaborative element of this exhibit because the gallery is a

place she feels everyone should feel a sense of belonging Deck the Walls runs until Jan. 15 before a new exhibit of work done by Port Colborne High School art students is incorporated into the

Although this is the last exhibit

of the year, Arts Place has big plans for the New Year.

The gallery will celebrate its 20th anniversary this February but plans to wait until May to celebrate this milestone event in order to focus on the annual art auction, which takes place in

They are also in the midst of setting up workshops and lessons for those looking to work on a new project. Member Esa has confirmed an Introduction to Textured Abstract workshop on

Arts Place is always looking for new members and volunteers. Those interested can contact the gallery by calling 905-834-9060 or stop by between noon and 4:30 p.m. from Thursday to Sunday for more information.

LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photo Arts Place Gallery Members Doug Carter, Madeleine Fregren and Joyce

Honsberger are some of the many artists showcasing work in the gallery's Deck the Walls exhibit. They were on hand for the artist's reception on Saturday afternoon to speak of the collaborative effort.



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#### ■ CHAMBER: O&A session new format

■ BUSINESS: MacLeod wins Quarter award

### Port Colborne, Wainfleet mayors grilled at breakfast session

WAYNE CAMPRELL InPort News Staff

looking for questions.

They got them With a shift in format, the Port Colborne-Wainfleet PORT COLBORNE Chamber of Commerce's Wainfleet and Port Quarterly Mayors Breakfast Colborne mayors came now encourages comments

from chamber members

WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

rather than speeches from the politicians.

Vance Badawey and April Jeffs heard views about community improvement plans, police and vandals, road construction, septic

tanks and stinky beaches. Badawey got an earful about vandalism in downtown Port Colborne and a lack of enthusiasm from police officers about vandalism and break-ins. The mayor said it was important merchants contact

police so they can track problems and watch for "They log and record all

calls," he said. If there are specific difficulties with individual police officers, people should contact him. He sits on the Niagara Regional Police services board

The mayor cautioned the group of about 50 assembled at the Guild Hall breakfast last week not to blame young people alone for the problems.

"We want to engage the community youth and give them more responsibility

se community members.

he said, adding the city plans to build a skate park but hasn't selected a location yet.

Algae buildup in Reebs Bay and other beaches along the Lake Erie shore of Port Colborne

Wainfleet drew a question about the cause of that problem. Jeffs and Badawey said it was a combination of reasons that go beyond local sewage and agricultural

runoff "I don't think senior levels of government are doing enough," Badawey said

A few years ago, a natural

management plan for the north shore of Lake Erie was being developed, "but it has been dropped." Now, he said, "we have become

the beneficiaries of a lot of Jeffs said Wainfleet is working with Niagara Peninsula Conservation

Authority to do testing. "There are a lot of theories about the cause of

algae buildup," she said. Meanwhile, the township this spring will begin testing sceptic systems along the lakeshore. It's about to hire an inspector and will probably hold an information session to inform property owners about the process and their responsibilities, she said. leffs and her council

were elected a year ago on a platform to stop the so-called "Big Pipe" plan for a sewer and waterline along Lakeshore Rd. As an the local business commualternative, inspection and replacement of faulty sceptic systems was suggested.

In reversing the Q&A, Badawey asked the chamber for its opinion on the new Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce, to which the St. Catharines-

Thorold chamber will be the first to merge.

Vice-president Patti Stirling said the Port Colborne- Wainfleet chamber is not interested in blending into a regional chamber that would reduce the local agency to a busi-

ness council. "Business in Niagara should speak with one voice," she told the mayor. but it doesn't have to be through one chamber."

The supporters of a regional chamber dismiss the role the chambers play in serving their members, such providing information and insurance, she said. "They would call this breakfast event small stuff."

Stirling said regional chamber backers are just interested in becoming a big lobbying body. There are other ways to do that, she said, adding

nity already has lobbying groups In an interview after the meeting, Badawey said the question-and-answer format, which the chamber started using last quarter, is

a good way to gather information and clarify matters.

### **NORTHEND AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRIAL & TIRE**

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> **PUBLIC NOTICE** PRIVATE SEWAGE SYSTEM REGULATING

The Regional Municipality of Niagara has, under agreement with the Township of Wainfleet, been regulating and enforcing private sewage systems in compliance with the Ontario Building Code Act on behalf of the Township since April

6, 1998. TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Wainfleet will terminate said Agreement as of January 2, 2012 and the Township will resume the regulating and enforcement of private sewage systems as per Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code within

AND TAKE NOTICE that any and all permits issued by the Regional Municipality of Niagara prior to January 2, 2012 shall be processed by the Region through to their completion.

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# The Healthy Cupboard

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disappear and within a week it was completely gone - as if it was never there." lan goes on, "This coming from a woman whose painful joints and ongoing sciatica were so bad just one week earlier, that the pain was unbearable but now has completely subsided."By now you are probably wondering what is LeafSource and why is it so effective? LeafSource is a 100% natural product derived from a proprietary organic mineral composite with over ten years of university research. LeafSource helps regulate the inflammatory process and the body's ability to repair itself. The vast majority (70 - 80%) of the population over the age of 50 have joint problems - often called osteoarthritis. This is due to the natural (or unnatural) wear and tear on joint tissue



develops through the aging process. With joint inflammation, movement is limited and pain can be constant. LeafSource seems to have the ability to help people get their mobility and zest for life back. Millions of people seek treatment for their joint and inflammation problems by resorting to expensive, toxic prescription drugs (i.e. NSAIDs) with multiple side effects. These range from nausea and vomiting to serious intestinal disorders (bleeding, gas, pain) and even kidney and liver failure. Isn't that too large a price to pay for a little pain relief!? LeafSource is a safe alternative to these destructive anti-inflammatory drugs that cause more problems than they solve. There are absolutely no side effects and it doesn't interfere with any other medications. Controlled experiments and observations have revealed that LeafSource is a potent antiinflammatory that has been shown to bring a reduction to inflammation and pain within a few days. People notice great results in terms of more energy and less pain by taking anywhere from 2 to 6 capsules/day. Typical maintenance is usually 1 capsule twice daily. This product gets results! LeafSource is scientifically validated through more than 10 years of research at 4 universities, including the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mercer University. Aside from its incredible

anti-inflammatory and pain reducing ability, it has also been shown to improve the performance of your daily nutrition and vitamin programs. It helps increase the absorption of vital nutrients, which in turn helps these nutrients work better. Better absorption = better results! It's almost as if they have become supercharged! LeafSource has also been shown to help enhance energy levels, improve intestinal health, strengthen hair, skin and nails and improve immune function. To see someone go from intense pain to a new lease on life within a week is truly incredible. Imagine being able to move freely without pain. Who wouldn't want to get out of bed in the morning with more energy? It's amazing how much of this stuff we take for granted, until it's gone! lan adds, "I often recommend that LeafSource be taken with other natural joint products in order to help them work better and provide even faster relief. One of the things I hear most often from people who have tried LeafSource is they just plain feel better, have more energy and less pain. We're so confident, we quarantee LeafSource 100%! That alone should be enough to try this incredible product "

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# LOSE THE PAIN LeafSource \$300 The Healthy with Coulyon KRYRES DECEMBER 17, 2011

### **Creative types Deck the Walls at Arts Place**

#### InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE -Finding the right gift for the right person can be difficult.

Joyce Honsberger wants to help find the perfect gift for every family member and friend.

That's why Arts Place Gallery on King St. in Port Colborne is presenting Deck the Walls, a fine art exhibition featuring works

by the cooperative gallery's members. "(Art) is timeless, it's personal and it's not all

that expensive, it's not out of range," says Honsberger, the gallery's founder. "The next hot electronic device will be changed next

year: art is timeless More than 15 artists Place exhibition that runs until Jan. 15. The artists held an opening reception

at the gallery last Saturday. "I think (my favou-rite part of this show is)

the meshing of creativity and excitement and when things comes together and you think, 'Wow! Honsberger says

The gallery has a wide range of artistic styles. including sculpture, landscape paintings, modern

art and photography. The gallery also has smaller items for tight budgets, such as handcrafted

mugs, jewelry and cards. People can come in, look around and stay a while, bring a coffee and read one of the books available at

the gallery. "It's relaxing to come here. As soon as you walk in the door it feels tran-

quil," Honsberger says. The gallery is open year round, Thursday to Sunday noon to 4:30 p.m.

The next Arts Place exhiwill participate in the Arts bition will feature Port Colborne High School art etudente

"The walls are always changing."

vgray@wellandtribune.ca



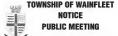
Joyce Honsberger gets ready for this year's Deck the Walls fine art exhibition featuring members of Arts Place Gallery, including David Spengler who is exhibiting glass pieces.



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PRIVATE SEWAGE SYSTEM REGULATION FEES FOR SERVICES

Please be advised that the Township of Wainfleet will be holding a public meeting on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 31940 Highway 3, Wainfleet. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and gather public comments regarding fees for septic permits and related services to be provided by the Township of Wainfleet Private Sewage System Regulating Department. This public meeting is held to meet the requirements of Ontario Building Code Act S.O. 1992., c.23 as amended under (Section 7 Bylaws, Resolution and Regulation) and Bill 124 (O.Reg. 305-03 Section 2. 23.1.2 Change of Fees). Any inquiries with respect to this matter should be directed to Mrs. Tanya Lamb, Clerk at (905) 899-3463, extension 226 or tlamb@wainfleet.ca.

### Region can't avoid 3.2% tax hike

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI QMI AGENCY

THOROLD - After a few swings of the budget axe by cost-conscious councillors. Niagara Region's 2012 budgets, including an average \$41 tax increase, passed last

Thursday night. The region's capital and operating budgets passed at a special council session, and call on taxpayers to take over expenses like Niagara Region Transit to protect Niagara's dwindling emergency reserves. The combined fiscal road map, which brings a \$41.03 tax hit to the average home - a 3.2% increase

It passed in a series of votes, despite councillors' efforts to ease that tax hit The votes were tight, as a block of councillors broke the budget into chunks to try and cut it down. But one by one, councillors backed the budget proposals that came out of committee.

death by a thousand cuts tonight, this is death by a thousand taxes," said St. Catharines Coun. Andy Petrowski, who vocally opposed tax measure after tax measure

But Lincoln Mayor Bill Hodgson said the extra spending, couched as sustainability dollars, was necessary

"If we use our reserves and run them down, it's called taxing your children and your grandchildren," he said. "Are we just going to reach to some kind of ideological god that's just going to make us believe that we can have it all and not pay for it?

Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor David Eke's effort to avoid putting regional transit on the levy fell in a narrow 12-11 vote, with St. Catharines Coun. Ronna Katzman providing the deciding Yes vote.

Port Colborne Coun. David Barrick's attempt to apply all "Unfortunately, this isn't of a \$5.1-million provincial

Give the Gift of SIGHT this Holida

windfall to this year's levy fell, too. Only one-third of it will be applied, with the rest being held back in reserve

for future budgets. Taxpayers need relief now," said Barrick. He said the budget plan

was "blowing guidance out of the water Council disagreed and voted the initial one-third in

by a 13-10 margin. And a n attempt by St. Catharines Coun. Bruce Timms to lop off \$2.3 million intended to top up the region's emergency piggy hank was defeated by a 14-8

The tax increase comes as the bus system and temnorary accommodations for Niagara Regional Police are set to move off emergency funding and onto the levy. The emergency fund they drew from, intended for sursuits and snow removal, was set to run dry by 2013. Thorold Coun. Henry

water, wastewater and waste prise expenses such as lawmanagement rates, Disposal D'Angela noted that running



could hurt its bond rating, which would rebound onto lowertier municipalities. "Look

at future

genera-

tions," he said. "Do

you want

down the

region's

to stick them with a whole s w a c k of debt? Do you want to saddle them with huge tax increases?" The region also finalized its

could take a \$14 jump on average, though that varies by municipality Petrowski and Niagara Falls Coun. Selina Volpatti both produced amendments aimed at hacking down utility rate spending, but both

schedule

were soundly defeated. This year's budget compares to a tax decrease last year, said Regional Chair Gary Burroughs. And he noted the region has held its average hike to 1% over the past five years.

rates could drop an average

of \$2 per household, while

water and sewer charges

"I'm thrilled." Burroughs said of the budget's passage. a month before the new year. Councillors put in a long autumn of Thursday night meetings churning the document out on an accelerated

"We're ready for action. and we've got a month to get started on some of those items. This was a big move by council." Burroughs said.

He said he felt the hike was fair to taxpavers and that the new sustainability funding didn't cover new spending, but decisions left by the previous council to leech from reserves

But Niagara Falls Coun. Bart Mayes said the budget left him cold. As council wranned up, he and Volnatti asked to be registered as opposed to the bylaws implementing the three budget documents. Those are normally rubber-stamped and voted on quickly. Timms also asked to be

noted as opposed to one of the budgets. "There was a lot of opportunity there to make substantial reductions to the levy increase," Mayes said. "Council decided not to take

that opportunity."



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#### ■ YEARLY EVENT: Introducing kids to high school life

### Port High's Blue Bears' den welcomes feeder schools



**EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo** 





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**EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo** 

Students Braedon Rush, Brian Wright and Tracy Barnes-Turdel decorate holiday cookies as they learn about culinary arts in Port Colborne High School's kitchen Wednesday.



Grade 8 student James Gould works on the finer points of decorating a wood frame he assembled with a soldering iron in Port Colborne High School's art class. TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET PUBLIC NOTICE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

**FDDIF CHALL** InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE -Consider it a Blue Bear conver-

sion day. Upon entering Port Colborne

High School's gymnasium last Wednesday morning, students from Port High's six feeder schools - Dewitt Carter, McKay, Steele St., Oakwood, William E. Brown and Winger - were in a state of mass confusion.

'Put on a shirt," said one of the many Port High senior students stationed at eight different tables decked out with navy blue clothing bearing the Blue Bears emblem. It took a few minutes but the roughly 150 students felt right at home in their Port High attire.

On Wednesday Port Colborne High School hosted its annual Grade 8 day, when the facility opens its doors to visiting student to showcase what the school has to offer.

"We have a lot planned for them," said teacher John Raso, who helped organize activities. "They get to participate in the various classes. There's manufacturing, music, phys ed, wood shop. We have the schools all split up so it gives the students a chance to mix. mingle and make new friends,"

see EDUCATION | page 11

10

Wainfleet will be holding a special meeting of Council on Friday, December 16th, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 31940 Highway 3. Wainfleet. The purpose of the meeting is to enter into employee negotiations for the position of Fire Chief for the Township of Wainfleet. A portion of the meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with Section 239 (2) (d) of the Municipal Act. S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended. Agendas will be available on the Township's website and at the Municipal Office on Monday, December 12th, Any inquiries with respect to this matter should be directed to Mrs. Tanya Lamb. Clerk at (905) 899-3463, extension 226 or tlamb@wainfleet.ca.

Please be advised that Council for the Township of

#### **■ EDUCATION**

### **Future** Port High students shown the ropes

#### FROM PAGE 10

Principal Nigel Evans welcomed the students to Port High. He said each of the classes they travel to are incorporated in some ways. "For instance you start at the wood shop to make picture frames," he said. "Then they are taken to the art class where you burn designs into them The frames are then taken to the metal shop to be assembled. It all works together."

We have teachers here to help you be successful and take you where you want to go.'

Port High principal Nigel Evans

Evans emphasized to students that there's more to Port High than academics. The Grade 8 day is meant to show what the school has to offer through a hands-or approach so future ninthgraders leave the school with information about what awaits them next fall. "We have teachers here to

help you be successful and take you where you want to go," Evans said.



Ryley Peck and Katie Cochrane work to assemble a wood frame they made earlier at Port Colborne High School's wood workshop.



Brand Name



■ POLICE: Man arrested

### Man suffers injury while subduing theft suspect

EDDIE CHAU InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A would-be car thief got more than he bargained for after an encounter with an Elgin St. homeowner.

One Port Colborne man sustained cuts and bruises

while he and a visitor to his home attempted to subdue the thief recently. The incident occurred at about 10:30 p.m. When the man and his visitor noticed a suspicious man lurking around vehicles parked on the homeowner's property, they confronted the suspect, who pulled a crowbar suspect, who pulled a crowbar

from his jacket and assaulted both males.

The Elgin St. homeowner received severe injuries. While both men were brave to subdue the suspect, Niagara Regional Police spokesman Const. Sal Basilone said when suspicious activity is noticed it is best to notify the police.

"We encourage residents to be mindful of their surroundings and call police," Basilone said. "We have the ability to respond quickly and deal with the situation."

The two men subdued the suspect with the help of neighbours until police arrived. Police said the suspect had stolen from a vehicle on the property. A search of the suspect yielded a push knife, a prohibited weapon in Canada. Chris McQuaig, 36, of Port Colborne is charged with robbery, assault causing bodily

harm, assault with a weapon,

possession of a dangerous

prohibited weapon and pos-

session of break and enter tools.
Police said thefts may have occurred in the area prior to the suspect's capture. They ask residents living in the Elgin and Elm Sts. area who believe that property has been stolen from their vehicles to contact



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LAKESHORE: Crowd pleasers take stage during Art Fusion



LINDSAY COSTELLO Tribune Photo Grade 9 student Claudia Wood performs with the Lakeshore Catholic High School competitive dance team during a hip-hop dance routine showcased at the school's Art Fusion event on Tuesday evening.



LINDSAY COSTELLO Tribune Photo

Lakeshore Catholic High School's glee club performs for a crowd in the great hall during the school's first Art Fusion event.

■ PORT COUPLE: Workload becoming too heavy

### **Niagara Music Awards meets** its swansong?

#### JOHN LAW OMI AGENCY

PORT COLBORNE -Free to a good owner: The Niagara Music Awards

After four years of bringing acclaim and recognition to the local music scene, organizers Morgan Whelan and lack Mitchell say the awards will go on without them next year. Now, it's just a matter of finding someone willing to do it. "I think that somebody'll

pick it up," says Whelan. But you need to be committed because there's so many different aspects to it."

Whelan and Mitchell. co-owners of the Port Colborne company Capital M Productions, began the awards in 2008. The first two shows were held in Niagara Falls before moving to Welland last year and Thorold this year. Each show got bigger, with June's event at the Frank Doherty Arena

But with Whelan and Mitchell also running their Port Colborne music school The Music Depot, the workload was becoming too much. By keeping things nonprofit (re: no staff), the duo were working 80 hours

per week in the months leading up to the event. "We just have so much

going on right now," she says. "We can't afford the time this year. As early as last year,

she knew the 2011 show would likely be the last. Announcing her decision via Facebook last week was difficult "We had to make a call."

she says. "We run two businesses, and we're selfemployed people. It was always our company that financed the Music Awards. We feel like we started something, and I've gotten a lot of e-mails and phone calls about people wanting to do it on their own.

because it becomes your life, becomes your baby. To let it go is really hard." About 750 people attended this year's show, which handed out 27 awards and featured 16 performances. The event became a signature night for Niagara's music scene, uniting everyone from thrash

"It's an emotional thing

metal bands to polka king Walter Ostanek St. Catharines rapper Mat Femapco won three straight

Niagara singers Ariana, left, and Briar Gillis perform at the fourth Niagara Music Awards, held this past June in Thorold. Organizers Morgan Whelan and Jack Mitchell say they can no longer do the show.

the year (tying with The KAC Himself this year), and says the show played a crucial role in helping local talent book gigs. He was hired for the Niagara Food Festival this year as a direct result of the Niagara Music Awards. "It's a sad thing because

it's the end of an era," he says, "It's one thing to win an award, but the way that they go about doing it - you really feel recognized."

"The networking aspect really helped. It's not every day you have different artists from different categories in the same area having a good time."

But Femanco isn't surprised Mitchell and Whelan are pulling the plug.

see MUSIC | page 16 awards for hip hop artist of









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16 III MUSIC

### Commitment needed from show organizers

#### FROM PAGE 15

"The time and effort they put into it, it's got to counteract with your home life. The hours they said they put into it are crazy ... at some point, it's hard to put out all this time when vou're not making any money doing it.

The show attracted decent sponsors its first year, but it became harder after the recession of 2009 took hold. This year's show cost about \$40,000 to produce, and while it broke even, the effort required to pull it off was like a full-time job. In addition to the show itself were judging events, launch parties and

fundraising concerts. If someone takes over, Whelan insists it become

The time and effort they put into it, it's got to counteract with your home life. The hours they said they put into it are crazy ... at some point. it's hard to out out all this time when you're not making any money doing it,"

Mat Fernanco, rapper

their show - she will not share her production notes. "That's not an option. I want someone to build it their own way. Femapco hopes to see the

show return in some form. though Whelan and Mitchell set the bar high.

"It's going to take some serious effort by whoever does it. They're going to have

to be extremely motivated because they have a tough act to follow."

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo The future of the Niagara Music Awards is in question as organizers Morgan Whelan and Jack Mitchell say they can no longer do the show







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EDDIE CHAU InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE There's nothing more joyful than seeing a young child unwrap a toy on Christmas

However, that may not be the scenario for many families this holiday season

So, for its fourth year, Double T Fashion in Port Colborne is doing its part in making Christmas positive for many families by collecting new unwrapped toys on behalf of Santa's Helpers, a Christmas food and toy col-

lection program. "It's the fourth year we've been doing this," said Double T Fashion owner Sara Dekker, who hopes to fill up the entire

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**EDDIE CHAU Staff Photo** Jamal Mills-Alexander and Sara Dekker of Double T Fashion are

helping out Santas Helpers by collecting a mountain of new unwrapped toys for youth, Double T Fashion will be collecting

front window of her 229 Main St. W. business with a mountain of toys. "We don't start until Dec. 3 but we already had a great donation. Our window is already starting to

On Saturday the store will

be holding an open house

that time, Double T Fashion

is encouraging patrons to

donate new unwrapped toys

from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. During

goods until Dec. 17.

fill up with toys,"

donation, patrons will receive a \$10 gift certificate for the "We'll be really thankful for all the help we'll get again." Dekker said

for youths aged newborn to

17 for its toy-a-thon. For each

For more information call 905-835-1234

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Dec 21

Dec 22

Dec 23

Dec 24

Dec 26

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Dec 28

Dec 29

Dec 30

Dec 31

Dec 23

Dec 30

Publication Date

Publication Date

**COUNCIL:** City support sought

### Stable funding urged for supportive home care

MARYANNE FIRTH InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE - Port Colborne is urging the provincial government to create a new and stable funding plan for supportive home care for seniors.

A motion requesting council's support on the issue was brought forward Monday night by Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais. It initially arose from the city's seniors advisory council, of which Desmarais is a member, and Care Watch — an Ontario organization that supports quality in-home care.

improving the life of seniors within Port Colborne." Desmarais said of the seniors advisory group. She said one challenge

many seniors face is the "quality of life in their own homes." Many seniors live with a chronic disease that does not require round-the-clock hosWe should have the provincial funding in place to give (seniors) the proper care."

would

rather stay

in their

own homes

with the

assistance

of a family

member or

Ward 2 Coun. Angle Desmarals pital care, she said. Instead of living in a retirement home or being hospitalized, most



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paid caregiver, she added. w should

have the provincial funding in place to give (seniors) the proper care

continue to be active participants in society, Port Colborne's motion states.

A substantial body of research, the motion reads. has documented the costeffectiveness of home care and there numerous articles one how home care benefits senior well-being.

"Supportive services including cooking, shopping, laundry and bathing are the critical, cost-effective difference between active living and hospital care that costs families and the province."

Along with unanimously supporting the motion, Port Providing senior-directed Colborne approved sendhealth care will shift demands ing information on the for acute care to more supissue to the Association of portive services that help Municipalities of Ontario in seniors to manage chronic hopes of garnering further degenerative disorders and

Display & Photo Deadline

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### New marina fees may float some people's boats

MARYANNE FIRTH InPort News Staff PORT COLBORNE -Various rates and user fees

RATES: Could be a positive for city

Colborne were under the microscope on last week. Reports were brought forward on fees for planning and development, bylaw enforcement, recreational facilities, charged by the City of Port municipal parks, corporate

services, Sugarloaf Marina

and public works Adjustments to the marina's rate system raised some discussion as city staff proposed a switch to a flat-rate system instead of the current per-foot charged based on the size of boats. This new system will lower the cost of a dock for most boaters, the city says. According to the report, the

factored in three primary factors - the economy, a high vacancy rate and simplicity when giving quotes to boat

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"Hopefully this will be a positive for the city," said Ward 4 Coun. Barb Butters last Tuesday.

see RATES | page 20



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The Standard

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#### ■inPortbriefs GARBAGE TRUCK HITS

20

PORT COLBORNE - Charges are pending for a driver of a garbage truck after a car was struck Tuesday afternoon.

At about 12:05 p.m., a garbage truck was southbound on Welland St. after turning off of Main St. E. At bout the same time a small car was headed eastbound on Melanby Ave. just off the canal bridge.

Niagara Regional Police Const. Sal Basilone said the garbage truck driver ran a red light and hit the turning vehicle.

The small car was pushed into a ditch on the east side of Welland St. while the truck collided with a traffic light pole

The driver of the car had to be extricated from the vehicle. "The driver suffered non-life threatening injuries," Basilone

#### RATES

#### Issue being met with 'thinking outside the box'

She said she appreclates that staff are "acknowledg-

attempting to address fees in a different way. "They're thinking outside

the box Butters is hopeful changed rates will help to increase occupancy at the marina in the coming season.

ing the economic times" and

"Hopefully they'll say, 'We get a break here. It's a great marina. Let's go to Port Colhorne." Butters' Ward 4 counterpart,

Bon Bodner, said he had "a few concerns" about changing the rating system, but he was willing look at the new system for a year to see how it works out. The proposed seasonal rates for the 2012 boating season

will be lower than 2011 by an

advantage of that price.

Customers must pay dockage in full with a signed contract, plus provide insurance documentation before their boats go in the water to take

Changes were also made to the city's planning and development fees, which haven't been updated since 2007. Many municipalities set their rates based on 100% cost

recovery in the planning and development department, said Dan Aquilina, Though Port Colborne is not there yet, the director of planning and development said it is something the city is working toward.

Even with an increase approved on Monday night. Port Colborne's rates are still among the lowest in the province and in Niagara.



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Dec 28

Dec 29

Dec 30

Dec 31

**Publication Date** 

Jan 3

Publication Date

A910

LET'S MAKE CANCER HISTORY \*\*888\*\*030\*\*\*\*\*

nears out-on, vestand, Critano, L28 Styte, aatoo Juthe 22, 2009, File Number 88304, to me directed, against the real and personal property of, MARILYN ALVENA HALL, Defendent, at the suit of Margaret Berry, Plantiff, I have seized and taken in execution all right, title, interest and equity of redemption of, MARILYN ALVENA HALL, in and to:
Pt. Lt. 12. Con. 1. Pt. 1. 59R11092, Wainfleet, Municipally k.
11244 Lakeshore Road, R.R. #2, Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 5V4

ALL CE WHICH said right: title, interest and early of redemption of MARIEM ALWAPA MALL Delineant; shall offer for see by Polic Audion in my office at the ST. CATHARINES COURTHOUSE, 56 CHURCH STREET, ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO LZR 7N8, on December 13, 2011 at 1:00pm, on the fourth floor, west boardroom. The purchaser to assume responsibility for all mortgages, charges, liens, outstanding taxes and other encumbrances. No representation is made regarding the title of the land or any other matter relating to the interest to be sold. Responsibility for accordating these matters

rests with the potential purchaser(s).

TLEMIS: Deposit 10% of bid price or \$ 1,000.00 whichever is greater Peyable et time of sele by successful bidder To applied to purchase price Non-refundable Ten business days from date of sale to arrange financing and pay balance in full at balance in rull at SHERIFF/ENFORCEMENT OFFICE at 102 East Main Street, Welland , Ontario L3B 3W8, 1st floor

All payments in cash or by certified cheque made payable to Deed Poll provided by Sheriff only upon satisfactory payment in full of rchase price.

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Dated: Oct 26, 2011 Susan Secord Sheriff's Office

00=000=000=0000= Christmas and New Years Holiday Deadlines for the

Display & Photo Deadline

Dec 19 at 1 p.m.

Dec 20 at 1 p.m.

Dec 21 at 1 p.m.

Dec 22 at 1 p.m.

Dec 22 at 1 p.m. Dec 22 at 1 p.m.

Dec 22 at 1 p.m.

Dec 27 at 1 p.m.

Dec 28 at 1 p.m.

Dec 29 at 1 p.m. Dec 29 at 1 p.m.

St. Cetherines. On. 1 2B 7N8

### Christmas In Memorian

Remember your loved one this Christmas Season with an In Memoriam. Our special

memoriam page will run on Saturday, December 24, 2011.

Call 1-866-541-6757 or visit our office at 228 East Main Street, Welland, between 8:30a.m. and 1:00 p.m. only, Monday thru Friday.

Dec 23 Dec 30 CELEBRATIONS PAGE Publication Date Dec 24

Dec 31

Dec 19 at 1 p.m. Dec 27 at 10a.m.

Tribune Office will be closed December 26, 2011 and January 2, 2012. 0=000=000=000=

Sun Media Classified Network

Word Ad Deadline

Dec 20 at 1 p.m.

Dec 21 at 1 p.m.

Dec 22 at 1 p.m.

Dec 23 at 1 p.m.

Dec 23 at 10 a.m.

Dec 23 at 10 a.m.

Dec 27 at 1 p.m.

Dec 28 at 1 p.m.

Dec 29 at 1 p.m.

Dec 30 at 10 a.m.

Dec 16 at 10 a.m.

Dec 23 at 10 a.m.

Dec 30 at 1 p.m. PELHAM NEWS & INPORT - word and display

Deadline

Deadline

Deadline is no later than December 16th at 1:00p.m. Please be advised that all ads require prepayment

#### ■ BUSINESS: Corner Cafe and Gas Bar celebrates turning 8



The Corner Cafe and Gas Bar, at the corner of Hwy, 3 and Burnaby Rd, in Wainfleet celebrated its eighth anniversary recently and that it became a Cango Station as well, with new gas pumps and a Country Style Outlet. From left are Herb Dekerf, regional business manager for Country Style, owners Raj and Harry Sidhu and Mayor April Jeffs

#### ■ SPORTS



Submitted photo Club Frontenac Volleyball League players were on the court last Friday night.

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